

REMARKS

Claims 1-42 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 8-9, 20-21 and 32-33 are amended and claims 37-42 are added. Reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claims 1-7, 10-19, 22-31 and 34-36 are allowed.

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representatives by Examiner Cao at the interview held December 2, 2003 are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the Remarks below and constitute the Applicant's record of the interview.

The Office Action rejects claims 8-9, 20-21 and 32-33 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Ikematsu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,613,913) (Ikematsu). For the reasons set forth previously, and the reasons set forth below, Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As agreed during the interview, Ikematsu does not disclose or suggest an image generation system/method comprising *inter alia* means for/step of playing a motion of an object based on pre-stored motion data regardless of a position of a shooter, as recited in independent claims 8-9, 20-21 and 32-33.

Furthermore, as also agreed during the personal interview, Ikematsu does not disclose or suggest switching from generation of an object's motion through a physical simulation to play of the object motion based on motion data when a given condition is satisfied, as recited in claims 9, 21 and 33, for instance, when a given time period has elapsed after the target has been hit.

Accordingly, Ikematsu and Applicant's invention are distinct, and Ikematsu does not disclose or suggest each and every feature of independent claims 8, 9, 20, 21, 32 and 33.

Hence, Applicant asserts that these claims define patentable subject matter.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn.

New claims 37-42 correspond respectively to claims 11, 12, 23, 24, 35 and 36, rewritten in independent form. Since claims 11, 12, 23, 24, 35 and 36 were indicated to be allowable, new claims 37-42 are allowable.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of all the rejected claims and the new claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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